

I would like to comment on some of the discussion in the Notice of Inquiry, and inform you of how a broadcaster in my area is doing an excellent job of serving my local community. This broadcaster is an FM translator service for the K-LOVE Radio Network.

K-LOVE is a listener-supported noncommercial station. Every listener who supports K-LOVE out of their own finances does so because K-LOVE meets a need in their community that other radio stations are not meeting. In order for a K-LOVE station to remain on the air, there must be a sufficiently large population of such listeners who are not being adequately served by other stations available in the community.

It is clear from the discussion in paragraph 24 of the NOI that this kind of service is one that the Commission values highly.

Given the excellent service my community receives from the FM translator, I am concerned by some of the language in paragraph 45 of the NOI. This paragraph seems to indicate that, because LPFM stations often broadcast locally produced programming, they are better able to meet the needs of their communities than a noncommercial FM translator. I disagree with that assessment because of the service that K-LOVE has provided.

Unfortunately for my community, there is the possibility that regulations written under such a misconception could allow an LPFM transmitter to displace our K-LOVE broadcaster. If this were to happen, it would very difficult for the LPFM to serve our community as well as K-LOVE has. By using FM translator services, K-LOVE has created a very efficient means of providing the service my community needs. Locally produced programming would not be able to operate as efficiently, leaving us with a lower-quality service. Even if an LPFM were somehow capable of originating programming of equal quality, it would be received by a smaller audience.

In response to the questions of paragraph 14 of the NOI, I would respond that any broadcaster that meets the needs of a community should be allowed to broadcast to that community, even if the programming was not produced locally. I would further present K-LOVE as a prime example of broadcaster acting in the best interest of its listeners, both in my community and in others.

Stations that meet the needs of their listeners so well that the listeners are willing to support them at their own personal expense should not need to fear being displaced because of their owner's geographical location. I have every confidence that the Commission will consider this, and resolve the issue in a way that best serves the public good.